1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method of displaying a soft key label set on a telephone having a display monitor, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of soft key label sets wherein one of the plurality of the soft key label sets has a function in a particular context and includes a text string;

retrieving the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets based on the particular context from a call manager object;

displaying the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets on the display such that the text string corresponds to a physical button on the telephone, and;

changing the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets to another of the plurality of the soft key label sets when the context changes[[,]];

using an index to retrieve a soft key label set wherein a value for the index is determined based on the particular context; and

invalidating one or more text strings in a soft key label set using a valid mask associated with the index,

wherein, while the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is being changed, the physical button is deactivated.

14. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein an index is invoked by one of a line handler object and a call plane object.

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein a valid mask is invoked by one of a line handler object and a call plane object.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein a subset of the plurality of soft key labels is stored remotely.

17-18. (canceled)

19. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising determining the particular context the telephone is in at any given time during its operation.

20. (original) A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising examining a database associated with the telephone to determine the particular context of the telephone.

21-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended)   A computer-readable medium containing programmed instructions arranged to display a soft key label set on a telephone having a display monitor, the computer-readable medium including programmed instructions for:

   storing a plurality of soft key label sets wherein one of the plurality of the soft key label sets has a function in a particular context and includes a text string;

   retrieving the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets based on the particular context from a call manager object;

   displaying the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets on the display such that the text string corresponds to a physical button on the telephone, and;

   changing the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets to another of the plurality of the soft key label sets when the context changes[[.]];

   _____ using an index to retrieve a soft key label set wherein a value for the index is determined based on the particular context; and

   _____ invalidating one or more text strings in a soft key label set using a valid mask associated with the index.

Appln. No.: 09/480,644   4
Atty Docket: CISCP118/1662

wherein, while the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is being changed, the physical button is deactivated.

26-28. (canceled)